

Southeast Fisheries Science Center  
Miami Laboratory  
75 Virginia Beach Drive  
Miami, FL 33149

January 26, 2005

TO: Dr. Lance Garrison,  
Protected Resources Branch

FROM: Dennis Lee,  
SEFSC Observer Coordinator

SUBJECT: Longline gear Incidental Take summary for quarter 4, 2004.

The Miami Laboratory Pelagic Observer Program (POP) is providing you with a summary report of the incidental take of marine mammals and sea birds that have been recorded by observers aboard longline vessels for October 1 to December 31, 2004. The POP completed an overall coverage rate of 7.2% of selected pelagic longline fleet for the quarter (Table 1). During the quarter, observers recorded six (6) marine mammals (2-Risso's dolphin-alive; 4-pilot whale-alive) and one (1) seabird (1-species unknown-dead ), in addition to 22 sea turtles (13-leatherbacks-alive; 9-loggerheads-alive).

Enclosed you will find the original Incidental Take (IT) forms and copies of the Haul logs for those animals associated with the regular longline coverage . The POP will maintain copies of the IT logs in our files until you have completed your data review or entry. I strongly recommend that you return the original IT forms with any changes (in red and initialed) to the POP staff when you have completed your review.

In addition to the POP reporting of Protected Resource (PR) species recorded during observed longline fishing, observers have been requested to inspect the turtle handling and dehooking gear available aboard the vessels as a requirement of the 2004 Biological Opinion (BO). Since you are the point-of-contact (POC) person overseeing the Miami BO tasking, I am providing you with copies of the Miami PR Turtle Gear check list forms either filled out by the observer or by POP staff during debriefing from 2 third quarter selected vessels and 16 fourth quarter selected vessels. A PDF file will be created and will be posted on the SEFSC-POP secured website. Although it is not clear how this information will be processed, the originals will remain on file in the observer office, room 314. The POP also has not provided the Turtle Take Estimates (TTE) nor the Net Mortality Ratio (NMR) mentioned in the 2004 BO as our program staffing does not have the expertise to conduct these analyses. Finally, the POP observers recorded no sawfish catches during the quarter; this species is not likely to occur in the pelagic environment.

Attachments

Table of Incidental Take summary for fourth quarter of 2004 by geographical area and sets observed; original Incidental Take logs for regular longline coverage; copy of the Haul log associated with the take; and copies of the Turtle Gear check list forms.

cc: Cheryl Brown; Gerry Scott, Jim Bohnsack (cover letters only).

Table 1: Percent coverage (by sets),the incidental take of Protected Resource species (turtles, mammals, seabirds), and hook effort summarized by geographical area for October 1 - December 31, 2004. (A=Alive, D=Dead, LB=Leatherback,LH=Loggerhead, U=unknown).

AREA	REQUIRED		TURTLES		MAMMALS		BIRDS	
	TOTAL SETS OBSERVED	8% COVERAGE	A LB/LH/U	D	A	D	A	D
CAR-1	0	0	0/ 0/ 0	0	0	0	0	0
GOM-2	71(6%)	88	1/ 2/ 0	0	0	0	0	0
FEC-3	6(5%)	10	0/ 0/ 0	0	0	0	0	0
SAB-4	5(4%)	10	0/ 2/ 0	0	0	0	0	0
MAB-5	36(9%)	31	9/ 5/ 0	0	6	0	0	0
NEC-6	3(2%)	10	1/ 0/ 0	0	0	0	0	0
<u>NED-7</u>	<u>22(14%)</u>	13	<u>2/ 0/ 0</u>	<u>0</u>	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	1
TOTAL	143(7+%)	160	13/ 9/ 0	0	6	0	0	1

Hook effort Summary:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Hook effort</u>
CAR	0
GOM	51,048
FEC	1,523
SAB	2,675
MAB	32,814
NEC	3,720
NED	<u>23,668</u>
TOTAL	115,448